

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
SHERMAN DIVISION

PERRY DUNN  
Plaintiff,

vs.

THE KROGER COMPANY, and  
KROGER TEXAS L.P.  
Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

JURY REQUESTED

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

Pursuant to the terms and provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§1441 and 1446, The Kroger Co. and Kroger Texas L.P., (“Kroger”)<sup>1</sup> Defendants in the cause styled “Perry Dunn v. The Kroger Company and Kroger Texas L.P.,” originally pending as Cause No. CV-13-1872 in the 397<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Grayson County, Texas, file this Notice of Removal of the cause to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division.

**I.**

**BASIS FOR REMOVAL**

The basis of the removal of this action is diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1332. In particular, diversity jurisdiction exists in this case because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties. Defendants are not citizens of the State of Texas, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs. *See* 28 U.S.C. §1332.

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<sup>1</sup> Real party in interest is Kroger Texas L.P.

**II.**  
**DIVERSITY JURISDICTION**

At the time of the accident giving rise to this case, Plaintiff Perry Dunn was a resident and citizen of the State of Oklahoma.

The Kroger Co., at the time of the initial filing of this action and at the time of the removal of this action, was and is a corporation formed under the laws of Ohio with its principal place of business in Ohio. The Kroger Co. has never been a resident of, incorporated in, or had its principal place of business in the State of Texas.

Kroger Texas L.P., at the time of the initial filing of this action and at the time of the removal of this action, was and is a limited partnership formed under the laws of Ohio. The general partner of Kroger Texas L.P. is KRGP Inc., an Ohio corporation with its principal place of business in Ohio. The only limited partner is KRLP Inc., an Ohio corporation with its principle place of business in Ohio. Neither KPGP Inc. nor KRLP Inc., the only two partners of Kroger Texas L.P., has ever been a resident of, incorporated in, or had its principal place of business in the State of Texas.

**III.**  
**FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

Plaintiff claims he was injured when he attempted to shift a malfunctioning dock plate mechanism and he felt a “pop” in his lower back. Plaintiff claims his supervisor denied him assistance in moving the dock plate mechanism. Plaintiff filed suit against The Kroger Co. on October 16, 2013, in the 397<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Grayson County, Texas. Plaintiff filed his Amended Petition against The Kroger Co. and Kroger Texas L.P. on November 20, 2013 and alleges negligence and premises liability causes of action against Kroger.

### **THE AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY**

Plaintiff judicially admits in his First Amended Petition that he is seeking monetary relief over \$1,000,000.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, Plaintiff claims damages for past and future medical expenses, past and future physical pain and suffering and mental anguish; loss of earning capacity, plus costs of court, pre and post judgment interest, and such other relief that might be granted.<sup>3</sup> As a result, the amount in controversy in this case exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and this case is removable.<sup>4</sup>

### **V. REMOVAL IS TIMELY**

This removal is timely because it is filed “within thirty days after receipt, through service or otherwise, of a copy of an amended pleading, motion, order or other paper from which it may first be ascertained that the case is one which is or has just become removable.” 28 U.S.C. §1446(b). Kroger first became aware this case might be removable on November 20, 2013 when Kroger received Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition. Accordingly, this removal is timely because it is made within thirty days after the receipt by Defendants of the document which first demonstrated the case was removable. Moreover, more than one year has not passed since the commencement of the action in state court on October 16, 2013. 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).

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<sup>2</sup> See Plaintiff’s First Amended Petition, attached hereto as pgs 16 – 22.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> See *S.W.S. Erectors, Inc. v. Infax, Inc.*, 72 F.3d 489, 492 (5th Cir. 1996); see also *Laughlin v. Kmart Corp.*, 50 S.W.3d 871, 873 (10th Cir. 1995) (amount in controversy is ordinarily determined by allegations in complaint).

**VI.  
VENUE**

Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1441(a) because this district and division embrace the place in which the removed action has been pending.

**VII.  
PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

Defendants have filed a Notice of Filing Notice of Removal to Federal Court with the Clerk of the 397<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Grayson County, Texas simultaneously with the filing of this Notice of Removal.

Pursuant to Local Rule CV-81, the following documents are attached hereto for the Court's reference:

- (1) Certified copy of the state court docket sheet as of December 17, 2013;
- (2) All pleadings that assert causes of action and all answers thereto;
- (3) A copy of all process and orders served upon Defendant;
- (4) Case Information, including:
  - (a) A list of all parties and current status of the removed case;
  - (b) A complete list of attorneys involved, including bar numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, and party or parties represented by him/her;
  - (c) A record of which parties have requested trial by jury and
  - (d) The name and address of the court from which the case is being removed; and
- (5) Civil Cover Sheet.

**WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED,** Defendants respectfully pray that this case be removed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division.

Respectfully submitted,



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**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS**

**THE KROGER CO. and**

**KROGER TEXAS L.P.**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been forwarded to the following counsel of record in accordance with and pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on December 19, 2013:

Norman J. Hoppenstein  
Hoppenstein Law Firm  
7920 Belt Line Rd. Ste 370  
Dallas, Texas 75254



Donna C. Peavler